WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A flexibly adaptable asset management system for deploying asset management functions to a client application for manipulating assets, representing data, in a data store, and for adaptively mapping between the assets and the data store, the system comprising:

    an asset manager server disposed between the client application and the data store, the asset manager server including:

        at least one client adapter for providing interface functions between the client application and the asset manager server; and

        at least one schema adapter for mapping the assets to the data stored in the data store and for transferring the data to and from the data store, in response to methods invoked in the at least one client adapter of the client application,

    wherein, the at least one schema adapter is flexibly adaptable, thereby allowing the system to do one or more of handle different asset types and handle additional client applications.

2.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one schema adapter is specific to a particular one of the assets, an asset being meta data for a particular data type.

3.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the asset manager server further includes:

        at least one object oriented class, wherein an instance of the object oriented class encapsulates the data and associated behaviors for transferring between the at least one schema adapter and the client application through the at least one client adapter.

4.   The system according to claim 1, further comprising external services for providing a link between the at least one schema adapter and the data store.

5.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one schema adapter registers with the asset manager server by identifying ones of the at least one client adapter supported by the at least one schema adapter, wherein the at least one schema adapter implements the interface functions defined in the supported client adapter.

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1   6.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one schema adapter is
2   identified by a unique identifier.

1   7.   The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one schema adapter
2   supports an asset type, identified by a unique identifier, which is associated with the
3   particular one of the assets and corresponds to a file type.

1   8.   The system according to claim 7, wherein the at least one schema adapter
2   supports multiple asset types, each of the asset types being identified by a unique identifier.

1   9.   The system according to claim 1, further comprising implementing a parser
2   for extracting properties and associated values from files stored in the data store.

1   10.   A method of flexibly adapting an asset management system for deploying
2   asset management functions to a client application for manipulating assets representing data,
3   in a data store, and for adaptively mapping between the assets and the data store, the system
4   comprising:
5   an asset manager server disposed between the client application and the data store,
6   the asset manager server including:
7   at least one client adapter for providing interface functions between the client
8   application and the asset manager server; and
9   at least one schema adapter for mapping the assets to the data stored in the
10   data store and for transferring the data to and from the data store in response to
11   methods invoked in the at least one client adapter of the client application,
12   wherein, the at least one schema adapter is flexibly adaptable, thereby allowing the
13   system to do one or more of handle different asset types and handle additional client
14   applications;
15   the method comprising creating a new schema adapter by:
16   choosing an asset type, corresponding to a file type, to be supported by the new
17   schema adapter;
18   defining user interactions of the client application with the asset manager server to be
19   facilitated by the new schema adapter;

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20   choosing a data store for one of the assets associated with the asset type to be

21   supported by the new schema adapter, wherein the existence of the data store is transparent to

22   the client application;

23   defining a load time interface for the new schema adapter; and

24   defining a run time interface for the new schema adapter using the defined user

25   interactions.

1   11. The method according to claim 10, where in the at least one schema adapter

2   is specific to a particular one of the assets, an asset being meta data for a particular data type.

1   12. The method according to claim 10, wherein the step of defining a load time

2   interface comprises registering with the asset manager server by identifying ones of the at

3   least one client adapter supported by the new schema adapter, wherein the new schema

4   adapter implements the interface functions defined in the supported ones of the client adapter.

1   13. The method according to claim 10, wherein the new schema adapter is

2   identified by a unique identifier.

1   14. The method according to claim 10, wherein the asset type is identified by a

2   unique identifier.

1   15. The method according to claim 10, wherein the new schema adapter supports

2   multiple asset types, each of the asset types being identified by a unique identifier.

1   16. The method according to claim 10, further comprising implementing a parser

2   for extracting properties and associated values from files of the file type, when the files are

3   stored in the data store.

1   17. A program storage device readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a

2   program of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for flexibly

3   adapting an asset management system for deploying asset management functions to a client

4   application for manipulating assets, representing data, in a data store, and for adaptively

5   mapping between the assets and the data store, the system comprising:

6   an asset manager server disposed between the client application and the data store,

7   the asset manager server including:

8   at least one client adapter for providing interface functions between the client

9   application and the asset manager server; and

10   at least one schema adapter for mapping the assets to the data stored in the

11   data store and for transferring the data to and from the data store in response to

12   methods invoked in the at least one client adapter of the client application,

13   wherein, the at least one schema adapter is flexibly adaptable, thereby allowing the

14 system to do one or more of handle different asset types and handle additional client

15 applications,

16   the method comprising creating a new schema adapter by:

17   choosing an asset type, corresponding to a file type, to be supported by the new

18 schema adapter;

19   defining user interactions of the client application with the asset manager server to be

20 facilitated by the new schema adapter;

21   choosing a data store for one of the assets associated with the asset type to be

22 supported by the new schema adapter, wherein the existence of the data store is transparent to

23 the client application;

24   defining a load time interface for the new schema adapter; and

25   defining a run time interface for the new schema adapter using the defined user

26 interactions.

1   18.   The program storage device according to claim 17, wherein the at least one

2 schema adapter is specific to a particular one of the assets, an asset being meta data for a

3 particular data type.

1   19.   The program storage device according to claim 17, wherein the step of

2 defining a load time interface comprises registering with the asset manager server by

3 identifying ones of the at least one client adapter supported by the new schema adapter,

4 wherein the new schema adapter implements the interface functions defined in the supported

5 ones of the client adapter.

1   20.   The program storage device according to claim 17, wherein the new schema

2 adapter is identified by a unique identifier.

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1   21.   The program storage device according to claim 17, wherein the asset type is

2 identified by a unique identifier.

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1   22.   The program storage device according to claim 17, wherein the new schema

2 adapter supports multiple asset types, each of the asset types being identified by a unique

3 identifier.

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1   23.   The program storage device according to claim 17, further comprising

2 implementing a parser for extracting properties and associated values from files of the file

3 type, when the files are stored in the data store.

1   24.   A system for flexibly adapting an asset manager for deploying asset

2 management functions to a client application for manipulating assets representing data, in a

3 data store, and for adaptively mapping between the assets and the data store, the system

4 comprising:

5   an asset manager server disposed between the client application and the data store,

6 the asset manager server including:

7   at least one client adapter for providing interface functions between the client

8   application and the asset manager server; and

9   at least one schema adapter for mapping the assets to the data stored in the

10   data store and for transferring the data to and from the data store in response to

11   methods invoked in the at least one client adapter of the client application,

12   wherein, the at least one schema adapter is flexibly adaptable, thereby allowing the

13 system to do one or more of handle different asset types and handle additional client

14 applications,

15   further wherein, a new schema adapter is created by:

16   choosing an asset type, corresponding to a file type, to be supported by the new

17 schema adapter;

18   defining user interactions of the client application with the asset manager server to be

19 facilitated by the new schema adapter;

20   choosing a data store for one of the assets associated with the asset type to be

21 supported by the new schema adapter, wherein the existence of the data store is transparent to

22 the client application;

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23   defining a load time interface for the new schema adapter; and

24   defining a run time interface for the new schema adapter using the defined user

25 interactions.

1   25.   The system according to claim 24, wherein the at least one schema adapter is

2 specific to a particular one of the assets, an asset being meta data for a particular data type.

1   26.   The system according to claim 24, wherein the asset manager server further

2 includes:

3   at least one object oriented class, wherein an instance of the object oriented

4   class encapsulates the data and associated behaviors for transferring between the at

5   least one schema adapter and the client application through the at least one client

6   adapter.

1   27.   The system according to claim 24, wherein the load time interface is defined

2 by registering with the asset manager server by identifying ones of the at least one client

3 adapter supported by the new schema adapter, wherein the new schema adapter implements

4 the interface functions defined in the supported ones of the client adapter.

1   28.   The system according to claim 24, wherein the new schema adapter is

2 identified by a unique identifier.

1   29.   The system according to claim 24, wherein the asset type is identified by a

2 unique identifier.

1   30.   The system according to claim 24, wherein the new schema adapter supports

2 multiple asset types, each of the asset types being identified by a unique identifier.

1   31.   The system according to claim 24, further comprising a parser for extracting

2 properties and associated values from files of the file type, when the files are stored in the

3 data store.